of gains under the schemes will be considered with those States which agree to adopt the scheme.

Procurement of Maize in A.P.

490. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Centre to procure maize in Rabi season under the "Decentralised Procurement Programme";

(b) whether the Chief Minister had pointed out that the Centre had approved decentralised procurement of maize during Kharif season 2000 in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether he has also sought Rs. 850 crore for procurement of 15,000 MTs of maize; and

(d) if so, whether the Union Government have agreed to the request of the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. In a meeting held on 31.10.2000 with the delegation of State Ministers and Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh, it was decided that Andhra Pradesh State Civil Supplies Corporation would procure upto I lakh tonnes of maize for distribution through Public Distribution System. Accordingly, a quantity of 42900 MTs of maize has been procured in the State during the Kharif Marketing Season 2000-2001. AP MARKFED was provided a loan of Rs. 3.00 crores by FCI for procurement of maize for Central Pool.

(c) and (d) The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, in his letter dated 10.4.2001 mentioned that an amount of Rs. 8.50 crores would be required for procurement of 15,000 MTs of maize and FCI may be requested to release an amout of Rs. 5.00 crores to AP MARKFED for the procurement operations.

As there was no demand for maize under the PDS, it was decided to dispose of the same in the open market. Hence, it was not found feasible to accede to the request of the State Government. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has been informed accordingly.